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**AGENDA ITEM #7**  
November 19, 1998

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Executive Director's Report

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**Materials in the Mailing Packet:**

1. "Explanation and Applications of County Input-Output Models" by George Goldman; Mr. Goldman showed this report to the Commission at the last meeting; copies were made for your information and use.
2. Meeting schedule for 1999.
3. Excerpts from the Report from the Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on CALFED
4. Letter Submitted to OAL by Staff regarding Tri-TAC's Request for Regulatory Determination. Tri-TAC requested some time ago that OAL review the Commission's entire Plan to determine if the entire Plan is regulations (a more expansive request similar to the earlier lawsuit regarding Utilities and Infrastructure Policy P-3); no response yet.
5. California Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau's "Discover the California Delta" booklet.

**Materials Distributed at the Meeting:**

1. A staff memo about Chinese Mitten Crabs.
2. Excerpts from the Final EIR for the Long Term Management Strategy which outlines the criteria which will be used to allow dredged materials from the eastern portions of the Bay to be used for levee maintenance in the Delta.

**Newly Released Documents:**

1. Great Valley Center report, "Agricultural Land Conservation in the Great Central Valley", October 1998; the report recommends establishment of a Private Land Conservation Transaction Program for the Valley to protect agricultural lands from urban sprawl.

2. The Bay Institute report, "From the Sierra to the Sea: the Ecological History of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Watershed". This report researched historical accounts and maps to determine the type and extent of habitats in the Delta circa 1850.

**Grant Programs:**

1. Department of Conservation announced \$13.7 million for FY 98-99 Land Stewardship Grants (for agricultural easements); applications will be released before the end of the year.
2. CALFED will have \$75 million for CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Grants in 1999
3. North American Wetlands Conservation Act: Small Grants Applications are due December 4. Between \$500,000 and one million dollars is available nationwide for grants of up to \$50,000, with priority to new grant applicants. Projects are for waterfowl, nongame and other migratory birds, wetland, or endangered species habitat.

**Other Items of Interest:**

1. Conference on "Practical Applications for Wildlife and Habitat Management on Farms and Ranches", December 8-9 in Visalia. Low cost.
2. New Web Site for Land Trusts: Trust for Public Land has completed the California Land Trust Homepage [www.capweb.com/tpl](http://www.capweb.com/tpl)
3. Ducks Unlimited recently received a \$3 million grant from the Packard Foundation to help make agricultural operations more wildlife friendly in the Central Valley, including the Delta. I understand they are interested in working with farmers that grow small grains in the Delta to help offset the cost of flooding harvested fields.